



## Jorie Licking, Certified PP, PLS

### Candidate for Texas ALP Treasurer

Education is important to me and it is the reason I became involved in our tri-level Association. The PLS exam was the first step in my journey, but it took a lot of encouragement and help from members in my local chapter. I was amazed that members on the State level, whom I had never met, were cheering me on. They sent me e-mails telling me how great it was that I was going to take the exam. This encouragement made the difference in me sticking it out and I passed!

I graduated with a Bachelor's in Multi-disciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at El Paso in May of 2009. I would never have had the confidence to undertake this task if it hadn't been for the boost I received by passing a certification exam, and it all started with a local member inviting me to study with her. We are at an exciting time in our association. Technology has advanced to the point where you can reach just about anybody, any place at any time and we need to make it work for us. I want to be part of this by being your next Treasurer.

#### Service to El Paso County Legal Support Association

2007-2010	Director
2006-2007	President
2005-2006	President-Elect
2004-2005	Treasurer
2003-2004	Secretary
2008-2009	Programs Committee Chair
2008-2009	Audit Committee Chair
2008-2009	Boss of the Year Committee Member
2007-2008	Boss of the Year Committee Member
2005-2006	Marketing Committee Chair
2005-2006	Court Observation Committee Member
2004-2005	Continuing Legal Education Chair
2004-2005	Certification Committee Chair
2003-2004	Reservations
2003-2004	Certification Committee Chair

#### Service to Texas Association of Legal Professionals

2009-2010	Secretary, Texas ALP
2008-2009	Marketing Chair
2007-2008	Editor, Texas ALP Docket
2006-2007	Chair, Certification Committee
2007	Instructor Texas ALP Cram Course
2005-2006	Chair, Certification Committee
2006	Instructor Texas ALP Cram Course

#### Service to NALS

2008-2009	Member, Certifying Committee
2007-2008	Member, Development Committee
2006-2007	Member, Regulation/Certification Committee
2005-2006	Member, Regulation/Certification Committee
	NALS Online Study Course Instructor

#### Honors

2007	LPY Finalist
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## Questions and Answers

### In generating non-dues income for Texas ALP, how would you suggest this income be spent to benefit the members?

I think we need to be flexible in how we use the money, but also fiscally responsible. The two biggest areas I see our members benefitting from non-dues income is education and membership. Technology is constantly changing and we need to keep

our members up-to-date. I envision us holding webinars, reaching all of our members across the state. One such webinar could be on how to use technology to benefit us in the workplace. How do you use the equipment to do a PowerPoint in the courtroom? What makes up an effective presentation? How do you make the most of Word or WordPerfect? These webinars need to be marketed to non-members, as well as members, giving us positive exposure to potential members, and showing them how membership in Texas ALP could benefit them and their co-workers. The more our membership grows, the larger our knowledge base will be, and that will generate even more ideas to benefit our members.

### **Why should members renew their membership year after year?**

Texas ALP is an ever-changing association because the legal profession is not a stagnant industry. Our association is always implementing new programs and in order to stay at the top of our profession, we need to belong to Texas ALP to benefit from the quality education, the intangible benefit of having almost instant access to members and information across the United States, and to stay in touch with the direction in which the legal profession is headed.

### **Under the NALS "Think Big" concept, if you could do one thing for Texas ALP, what would it be?**

I would like to see Texas ALP start a mentoring program. We need to encourage young members, and people just starting out in the legal professional. By doing this, we are not only encouraging education, but also growing our membership. In "Thinking Big," we need to see the big picture and work with our local chapters. Texas ALP needs to work hand-in-hand with local schools and partner with them in order to mentor students who are enrolled in legal training courses. We need to encourage them to become student members and help these new student members become involved in Texas ALP. The more involved a member is, the more likely they are to stay a member, and even more importantly, to become active members. This mentor could plug them into the world of Texas ALP, and answer any questions they might have. They would invite them to state meetings, keep them informed about various events, get them signed into NING, introduce them to the Texas ALP and NALS web sites, show them the different education opportunities available online and at meetings, and give them information about certification exams. However, the mentor wouldn't just invite them to meetings, they would sit with them, answer questions for them, and take them to dinner and introduce them to others. They would forge a bond. Friendship is a very important part of our membership.

### **What does Texas ALP do for you?**

Texas ALP has given me the confidence to step outside of my comfort zone and do things I would never have tried. A local member of EPCLSA encouraged me to study with her for the PLS certification exam and I joined the association so I could get the members' discount on the exam. However, once I went to my first meeting I was hooked!! I am a PLS and Certified PP, and recently I finished my Bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at El Paso. It all started with the confidence I gained from taking and passing the PLS.

Texas ALP gives me access to education through informative speakers at the conferences. I always return from the conference with renewed enthusiasm for my job. Above all else, Texas ALP makes me part of an association of other legal professionals, allowing me access to the expertise of other legal professionals throughout the state.